

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0091

QCCINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: PEKING PRESS CONTINUES EXPOSE OF POLITICAL OPPORTUNISTS

REF: (A) PEKING 0069 (NOTAL). (B) HONG KONG 425

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING HARD ON THE HEELS OF A BITING ATTACK ON ""SHIFTING WITH THE WINDS" PERSONAGES (REFTELS), THE JANUARY 10 PEOPLE'S DAILY RUNS A PIECE DEVOTED TO EXPOSURE OF PERSONS BELONGING TO THE "SLIPPERY FACTION." LIKE THE EARLIER ARTICLE THE JANUARY 10 INE IS PSEUDONYMOUS, REPRINTED FROM LIBERATION ARMY DAILY, AND DEVOTED TO DESCRIBING THE SPECIFIC FEATURES AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE SORT OF PERSON UNDER ATTACK. WHILE SUCH AN ARTICLE MIGHT BE USED IN AN OVERALL PARTY RECTIFICATION DRIVE, WE BELIEVE THE TARGETS ARE PRECISE AND HIGH-RANKING. THE TERM "SLIPPERINESS" CONNOTES TO US THE ANTI-TENG ELEMENTS
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IN THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP -- PERSONS LIKE WU TEH, CHEN HSI-LIEN, WANG TUNG-HSING, AND LI TEH-SHENG WHO TOOK AN EQUIVOCAL STANCE ON THE GANG OF FOUR AND WHO FLOURISHED DURING THEIR HEYDAY. WE SEE NO IMPLICATION IN EITHER PIECE OF AN ATTACK ON PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING (REF B). END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING HARD ON THEHEELS OF A BITING ATTACK ON "SHIFTING WITH THE WINDS" PERSONAGES (REFTELS), THE JANUARY 10 PEOPLE'S DAILY RUNS AND EQUALLY SCATHING EXPOSURE OF PERSONS BELONGING TO THE "SLIPPERY FACTION." THE STYLE AUTHORSHIP (PSEUDONYMOUS, IN THIS CASE CHIN KO, OR "GOLDEN WEAPON"), AND MODE OF PUBLICATION (FIRST IN THE LIBERATION ARMY DAILY, THEN IN THE PEOPLE'S DAILY) MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS ARTICLE IS INTENDED AS A SEQUALTO THE FIRST.

3. THE TARGETS ARE SPECIFIED FROM THE OUTSET: "PERSONAGES FREQUENTLY SEEN IN THE SCOURSE OF THE TWO LINE STRUGGLE, WHO MANIFESTLY WENT ALONG WITH LIN PAIO AND UNDERTOOK A VAST AMOUNT OF BAD THINGS FOR THE GANG OF FOUR, WHO NEVERTHELESS DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS HAVING BEEN CONSISTENTLY CORRECT, WHO FIRST DO NOT INVESTIGATE (THEMSELVES) AND SECONDLY DO NOT RECTIFY (THEIR SHORTCOMINGS ...) THE AUTHOR CATEGORIZES THE VARIOUS FORMS OF "SLIPPERINESS" THAT SUCH PERSONS MANIFEST:

--DELIBERATLY SUPPRESSING AND STIFLING, EVEN PRETENDING THAT THEY ARE MOST REVOLUTIONARY AD HATED THE GANG OF FOUR THE MOST;
--POINTING TO THEIR OWN PROBLEMS UNDER THE GANG OF FOUR AS EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE ON THE OTHER SIDE;
--STONEWALLING, OR REFUSING TO REMEMBER, OR PORTRAYING THE OTHER PERSON'S MEMORY AS INCOMPLETE OR INACCURATE;
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--CHANGING THE BACKGROUND, ESSENCE AND MOTIVATION OF A SITUATION, TRANSFORMING MAJOR THINGS INTO MINOR AND VICE VERSA;
--SHADOWBOXING, OR PUTTING THE RESPONSIBILITY ON OTHERS; AND
--FINDING SCAPEGOATS ELSEWHERE, OR SACRIFICING OTHERS TO SAVE ONESELF.

4. CHIN KO COMMENTS ACIDLY THAT SUCH "SLIPPERY" PEOPLE, FAR FROM BOBBING UP AND DOWN DURING THE PERIOD OF LIN PAIO AND THE GANG OF FOUR, IN FACT SAW THEIR FORTUNES RISE DURING THAT ERA.

5. LIKE THE EARLIER ARTICLE, THIS ONE ENDS ON A MILDLY CONCILIATORY NOTE;SUCH PERSONS SHOULD ADMIT THEIR MISTAKES CANDIDLY AS A SIGN OF HAVING CHANGED THEIR WAYS. ONLY THEN, THE ARTICLE IMPLIES, CAN THEY HOPE TO CONTINUE MAKING REVOLUTION WITH CHAIRMAN HUA AND THE PARTY CENTRAL.

6. COMMENT: WHILE SUCH AN ARTICLE MIGHT BE USED IN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL PARTY RECTIFICATION -- POINTING THE WAY FOR GOOD COMMUNISTS -- WE BELIEVE THE TARGETS ARE PRECISE AND HIGH-RANKING. THE TERM "SLIPPERINESS" CONNOTES TO US

THE ANTI-TENG ELEMENTS IN THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP -- PERSONS LIKE WU TEH, CHEN HSI-LIEN, WANG TUNG-HSING, AND LI TEH-SHENG. ALL OF THESE POLITBURO MEMBERS, AMONG OTHERS, DEMONSTRABLY TOOK AN EQUIVOCAL STANCE ON THE GANG OF FOUR AND MANIFESTLY FLOURISHED DURING THEIR HEYDAY. ALL TOOK AN ANTI-TENG STAND DURING THE TIEN AN MEN INCIDENT ALL RESISTED THE RETURN OF TENG. ALL ARE TRYING TO LLVE THIS DOWN TODAY -- PARTICULARLY DURING THE PERIOD OF JOCKEYING OVER ASSIGNMENTS TO BE MADE AT THE FORGHCOMING 5TH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS.

7. WE SEE NO IMPLICATION IN EITHER PIECE THAT VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING IS THE INTENDED TARGET (REF B). TO BE CONTRARY, YEH DEMONSTRABLY OPOSED THE GANG OF FOUR, CONFIDENTIAL

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PULBICLY SUPPORTED TENG HSIAO-PING, CONSPICUOUSLY REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POST-TIEN AN MEN DEMONSTRATION TO CELEBRATE TENG'S FALL, AND VIGOROUSLY PRESSED FOR TENG'S EARLY RETURN. WE DOUBT THAT ANY QUALMS HE MIGHT NOW HAVE CONCERNING TENG'S POLICAL OFFENSIVE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT GROUNDS TO LAUNCH THE SORT OF "NO ENTRY TO PAPAOSHAN" CAMPAIGN KICKED OFF BY THE FIRST ARTICLE. SUCH A MOVE BY TENG AND WEI KUO-CHING, YEH'S CLOSEST POLITICAL ALLIES, WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO POLITICAL SUICIDE IN OUR VIEW.

8. OVER AND ABOVE THIS, WE BELIEVE THAT CHEN HSI-LIEN IN PARTICULAR IS A PRIME TARGET. A FEVIEW OF THE POSTERS PUT UP

LAST JANUARY AT TIEN AN MEN SQUARE REVEALS THAT ONE ATTACKED CHEN FOR HIS "SHARP BRAIN" (NAO-TAI CHIEN) AND HIS "STRANGE AND ERRONEOUS DIRECTIVES". THE SAME TERM FOR "SHARP BRAIN" WAS FEATURED IN THE FIRST ARTICLE XPOSING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE "SHIFTING WITH THE WINDS" FACTION. CHEN, OF ALL THE PERSONS MENTIONED ABOVE, ALSO BENEFITTED MOST CLEARLY FROM THE GANG OF FOUR'S PERIOD OF SUPREMACY, WINNING THE PEKING MILITARY REGION CAMPAIGN, FILLING IN AS DEFENSE MINISTER DURING THE PERIOD OF YEH CHIEN-YING'S ILL HEALTH (OR BOUT OF SULKING), BEING NAMED AS VICE PREMIER. AND CHEN IS BY FAR THE MOST POTENT ANTI-TENG FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH ON THE EVE OF THE NPC. DEAN

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